INFORMATION LETTER

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C. A. Greenleaf Reports on Nuclear Tests on Canned Foods

A color-slide presentation illustrating and describing "Operation Cue" was delivered before the Florida Canners Association meeting at Miami Beach October 14 by C. A. Greenleaf, Associate Director of the N.C.A. Research Laboratory.

Mr. Greenleaf was project director of the canned foods tests conducted in Nevada at the time of the May 5 atomic explosion. The slide presentation, prepared for showing by N.C.A. speakers at the various state meetings this fall, was a joint project of the Laboratory and the Information Division.

It contains an introduction pointing up the importance of canned foods in various emergencies down through history, giving statistics as to the number of samples, categories and

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General Crop Conditions

Crop developments during the month of September were favorable for most crops and tended to uphold USDA estimates that the 1955 total output would be the second largest of record.

Based on October 1 conditions, the all-crop production index rose more than one point above last month to about 106 percent of the 1947-49 base, challenging the record set in 1948, according to the Crop Reporting Board.

The index of yield per acre moved up 2 points to a record 116 percent of the 1947-49 base. This compares with the 1948 record yield index of 108.

Prospects for commercial vegetables gained slightly during September. Estimates of fruit production changed only slightly.

Production of fall vegetables for fresh market is expected to be 7 percent less than in 1954 and 6 percent below the 1949-53 average.

However, the combined production of vegetables representing most of the total tonnage will be slightly above last year and above average, according to USDA.

Convention Program Features Usual Technical Sessions and Anniversary Observance of Food and Drugs Act

A program celebrating the enactment a half-century ago of the first federal pure food law and the leadership of the canning industry in that field through the past 50 years will highlight the Association's 49th Annual Convention at Atlantic City, Friday, January 20. In addition, the usual "money in your pocket" technical and marketing sessions and conferences will be held during the three-day period January 19, 20 and 21.

The N.C.A. Research Laboratory will hold a technical session Thursday afternoon, January 19, dealing with syrup and syruping operations.

On Friday afternoon, January 20, the N.C.A. Laboratory in cooperation with the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association will present a program on instrumentation.

Saturday, January 21, morning and afternoon, technical sessions are being planned on the subjects of material handling, radiation sterilization, and the knowledge learned from the atomic test in "Operation Cue" this past spring.

Saturday afternoon, January 21, the Fishery Products Division has invited outstanding representatives of the institutional and food chain markets to discuss the possibilities of improving the services and expanding the markets of canned fish producers.

The important marketing and merchandising aspects of the industry will be considered at two sessions. Friday afternoon, January 20, there will be a panel discussion on merchandising canned foods by representatives of the National Association of Retail Grocers and a report on a national survey of canned food advertising and merchandising by retail stores.

Saturday morning, January 21, the purchase and use of canned foods as affected by consumer motivation will be the topic under which facts and figures from the Philadelphia Project will be presented. This will include information on types of retail displays found most effective, on multiple-unit selling, and trends and relationships of canned food sales.

N.C.A. Moves Forward on Plan for Food and Drug Observance

Members of the Association of Food and Drug Officials of the United States met with representatives of food, drug and cosmetic industries in Washington, October 10, to consider plans for celebrating in 1956 the 50th anniversary of the Federal Food and Drugs Act of 1906. Carlos Campbell, Executive Secretary of the N.C.A., who is a member of the food industry committee for observance of the anniversary, and Nelson H. Budd, N.C.A. Information Director, participated.

At the luncheon session, Mr. Budd presented an outline of N.C.A. plans for highlighting the anniversary at the January Convention in Atlantic City. These plans have been under way for several months. Past and present events enumerated were:

(1) Conferences between FDA Commissioner George P. Larrick and Mr. Campbell last spring; (2) the proposal of a commemorative stamp and support of this suggestion in the form of letters to the Postmaster General; (3) announcement to N.C.A. members in the INFORMATION LETTER; (4) a letter in September to the Electors of the New York University Hall of Fame urging consideration of Dr. Harvey Wiley, leading sponsor of the early Food and Drug Law, as the 1956 selection.

Mr. Budd reported that the Convention will feature an outstanding speaker at its opening session, a food scientist associated with the early days of food legislation who was prominent in canning industry association with passage of the Act. One of the Board sessions will be devoted to a review of the historical fact that the original N.C.A. laboratory personnel was made up of former as-

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Vegetables for Processing —Indicated Production

October 1 prospects for nine important vegetables for commercial processing point to a total production of 5.59 million tons, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This compares with 5.40 million tons harvested in 1954 and an average of 5.44 million tons for the 1944-53 period.

The October 1 indicated total production for the nine crops is slightly above that estimated on the basis of conditions September 1. The increased tonnage in prospect for green lima beans, sweet corn, green peas, and tomatoes on October 1 more than offset the reductions shown for beets for canning, kraut cabbage (contract), and pimientos.

The indicated tonnage of kraut cabbage (contract) and sweet corn for processing are below average. However, prospective production of green lima beans, snap beans, beets for canning, green peas, pimientos, winter and spring spinach, and tomatoes exceed the 1944-53 average production.

Crop	10-year ave. 1944–53	1954 Revised	1955 Indicated
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)
Beans, green lima	70,910	103,020	86,330
Beans, snap	236,800	353,030	297,080
Beets	143,100	147,900	144,000
Cabbage (contract)	95,500	118,300	89,500
Corn, sweet	1,239,800	1,491,100	1,178,600
Peas, green	438,250	400,130	446,670
Pimientos	20,020	22,150	31,100
Spinach (winter & spring)	83,210	73,180	100,060
Tomatoes	3,109,100	2,688,560	3,218,630
U. S. Total	5,436,690	5,397,370	5,591,970

Estimates of 1955 production of cucumbers for pickles will be made in November. Estimates for asparagus, open market cabbage for kraut, and fall spinach will be made in December.

Lima Beans for Processing

On October 1 a total of 86,330 tons of green lima beans for processing was indicated for 1955. This compares with 103,020 tons obtained in 1954 and a 1944-53 average production of 70,910 tons.

The October 1 indicated yield of lima beans is 1,696 pounds per acre. This compares with 1,841 pounds harvested in 1954 and the 10-year average of 1,550 pounds.

During September, yield prospects declined in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. However, in practically all other important states more favorable growing conditions for the late crop resulted in yields somewhat better than were indicated a month ago.

State	10-year ave. 1944–53	1954 Revised	1955 Indicated	Percent change from 1954
	(tons, shelled)			
New York	1,620	3,360	3,150	−6
Pennsylvania	2,510	2,560	2,100	−18
Ohio	370	340	390	+15
Michigan	1,460	1,440	1,040	−28
Wisconsin	3,740	8,060	5,520	−32
Delaware	12,270	16,660	12,320	−26
Maryland	2,600	3,710	1,900	−49
Virginia	2,460	2,300	1,600	−32
Washington	1,110	1,130	1,560	+38
California	22,310	38,630	35,000	−9
Other states[1]	20,460	24,770	21,750	−12
U. S. Total	70,910	103,020	86,330	−16

[1] Ark., Colo., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Minn., Mo., N. J., Okla., Ore., Tenn., and Utah.

Sweet Corn for Processing

The 1955 sweet corn production prospects continued to improve through late summer, and on October 1 a total of 1,178,600 tons was in prospect. This compares with 1,491,100 tons obtained last year and an average of 1,239,800 tons for the preceding 10-year period.

The yield indicated on October 1 is 2.99 tons per acre. This compares with 3.29 tons obtained in 1954 and an average of 2.67 tons for the 1944-53 period.

Improvement in yield prospects during September was indicated by processors' reports in most of the states from New York westward to Illinois and Minnesota, in Delaware-Maryland, and in Utah and Washington.

State	10-year ave. 1944–53	1954 Revised	1955 Indicated	Percent change from 1954
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	
Maine	31,500	10,100	14,400	+43
N. H.	1,400	1,600	1,400	−12
Vt.	2,100	1,600	2,000	+25
N. Y.	65,700	63,000	47,600	−24
Pa.	25,100	33,600	24,000	−29
Ohio	40,600	27,400	20,000	−27
Ind.	60,500	48,600	52,800	+9
Ill.	176,400	219,800	179,200	−18
Wis.	245,600	311,200	220,800	−29
Minn.	227,400	347,100	297,500	−14
Iowa	81,000	76,600	51,300	−33
Del.	11,600	12,200	11,200	−8
Md.	84,500	78,100	63,800	−18
Va.	1,800	2,400	3,000	+25
Idaho	34,500	54,500	40,000	−27
Utah	18,500	30,200	22,900	−24
Wash.	54,300	81,000	45,000	−44
Ore.	44,000	63,900	52,900	−17
Other states[1]	33,200	28,200	28,800	+2
U. S. Total	1,239,800	1,491,100	1,178,600	−21

[1] Ark., Calif., Colo., Mich., Mont., Nebr., N. J., Okla., S. D., Tenn., Texas, and Wyo.

Beets for Canning

During September beet production prospects declined about 3 percent, and on October 1 the 1955 indicated production for canning was 144,000 tons. This compares with 147,900 tons obtained in 1954 and an average of 143,100 tons for the 1944-53 average.

On October 1, a yield of 8.46 tons per acre of beets for canning was indicated. This compares with 9.42 tons obtained in 1954 and an average of 8.69 tons for the preceding 10-year period. Improvement in yield prospects after September 1 in New York, Michigan and Oregon was more than offset by the reduction in Wisconsin due to dry weather.

State	10-year ave. 1944–53	1954 Revised	1955 Indicated	Percent change from 1954
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	
New York	41,000	54,000	39,900	−26
Michigan	8,100	7,800	7,000	−10
Wisconsin	56,000	49,100	49,000	....
Oregon	18,200	18,500	24,600	+33
Other states[1]	20,000	18,500	23,500	+27
U. S. Total	143,100	147,900	144,000	−3

[1] Calif., Colo., Ill., Ind., La., Me., Md., Minn. N. J., Ohio, Pa., Tenn., Texas, Utah, and Wash.

Tomatoes for Processing

Prospects for 1955 production of tomatoes for processing improved slightly during September, and on October 1 a total of 3,218,630 tons was indicated. This compares with 2,688,560 tons obtained in 1954 and an average of 3,109,100 tons for the 1944-53 period.

During the month of September increases in California, Indiana, and Illinois more than offset decreases in the Northeastern states. Indicated yields continued to decline on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

In Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Kentucky prospective average yields are reported higher than on September 1. In California the peak of the harvest period was reached the last week of September and, if weather permits, harvest is expected to continue through October.

The average indicated yield on October 1 is 10.43 tons per acre. This compares with 10.05 tons obtained in 1954, the record yield of 10.88 tons in 1953, and an average of 7.59 tons for the 1944-53 period.

State	10-year ave. 1944-53	1954 Revised	1955 Indicated	Percent change from 1954
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	
N. Y....	173,600	92,800	126,000	+36
N. J....	227,400	197,630	104,203	−47
Pa.....	169,900	139,800	83,200	−40
Ohio....	193,200	161,800	174,000	+8
Ind.....	340,900	236,800	267,800	+13
Ill.....	80,800	111,100	103,400	−7
Mich...	55,600	45,000	46,800	+4
Wis.....	8,500	6,400	10,000	+56
Iowa...	10,300	10,200	11,900	+17
Mo.....	18,400	400	5,400	+1250
Del.....	37,500	32,400	12,600	−61
Md.....	177,900	97,000	52,500	−46
Va.....	83,700	52,100	66,000	+27
S. C....	3,300	1,600	2,400	+50
Fla.[1]....	18,200	38,300	51,330	+33
Ky.....	7,400	3,500	4,200	+20
Tenn...	8,000	800	2,200	+175
Ark.....	23,100	1,500	10,500	+600
Okla....	3,000	200	500	+150
Texas..	53,000	30,000	22,100	−26
Colo....	26,400	24,100	25,500	+6
Utah...	75,200	49,300	73,700	+49
Calif....	1,297,600	1,343,000	1,955,000	+46
Other states[2]	15,900	11,100	7,400	−33
U. S. Total.	3,109,100	2,688,560	3,218,630	+20

[1] Sum of estimates by seasonal groups. [2] Ala., Ariz., Conn., Ga., Idaho, Kans., La., Minn., Miss., Nebr., N. M., N. C., Ore., Wash., and W. Va.

Cabbage for Kraut

The October 1 indicated contract production of cabbage for sauerkraut is 89,500 tons, compared with 118,300 tons obtained last year and an average of 95,500 tons for the 1944-53 period.

The September 1 indicated yield on the contract acreage is 11.8 tons per acre. This compares with 12.9 tons for 1954 and an average of 10.0 tons for the 1944-53 period.

The 415,700 tons forecast for early fall cabbage include 59,600 tons contracted for delivery to kraut plants. The balance of 356,100 tons is available for fresh market and open-market purchase by kraut packers. In 1954, 78,800 tons of early fall cabbage were bought under contract and 70,400 tons were purchased on the open market by kraut packers. Fresh market outlets absorbed the balance of 378,700 tons.

Pimientos for Processing

The production of pimientos for processing in 1955 was estimated on October 1 to total 31,100 tons, compared with 22,150 tons obtained last year and the average of 20,020 tons obtained during 1944-53.

The estimate for Georgia is 17,600 tons, compared with 13,650 tons obtained last year and the average of 18,600 tons. Dry weather and diseases curtailed the crop in Georgia after September 1, and the yield indicated on October 1 was 1.10 tons per acre, slightly below average but better than the short crop of 1954.

A total of 13,500 tons is indicated for other Southeastern states—Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. This compares with only 8,500 tons produced in those states last year. The crop in these states also was reduced by late summer hot weather.

Deciduous Fruit Production

Fruit production estimates, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA, were little changed on October 1 from a month earlier, and include about the same size crops of apples and pears as last year, more cranberries, but a fifth less peaches.

Apples

Indicated production of apples declined about 900,000 bushels during September, and on October 1 the commercial apple crop was estimated at 107,323,000 bushels, 2 percent smaller than the 1954 crop but 1 percent above the 10-year average.

Production in the Eastern states is estimated at 45,517,000 bushels, down 16 percent from last year but 3 percent above average. The estimated production of 14,819,000 bushels in the Central states is 9 percent below last year and 21 percent below average. Production in the Western states is expected to total 46,987,000 bushels, 20 percent more than last year and 8 percent above average.

The New England crop is expected to be the largest in many years totaling 48 percent more than average.

Peaches

Peach production is estimated at 50,539,000 bushels, an increase of 1.8 million bushels over the September forecast. This is accounted for mostly by the increase in the estimate of the California clingstone crop, which is estimated now at 22,502,000 bushels. The crop is 18 percent below the 1954 crop and 27 percent below average. Harvest was practically completed by October 1 in all states.

California freestones are estimated at 11,251,000 bushels, 6 percent below last year and 1 percent below the 1944-53 average. The Washington crop is estimated at 2,400,000 bushels, above last year and above average.

Crop	Unit	1954	Sept. 1 1955	Oct 1 1955
		(thousands)		
Apples.....	bu.	109,512	107,389	107,323
Peaches.....	bu.	61,316	47,830	50,539
Pears.....	bu.	30,434	30,863	30,363
Plums.....	ton	79	85	91
Grapes.....	ton	2,569	3,134	3,134
Apricots.....	ton	155	258	258
Cranberries.....	bbl.	1,018	1,112	1,069

Pears

The pear crop is estimated at 30,363,000 bushels, slightly below the September forecast and the 1954 crop and 2 percent below average.

Production of Bartletts in the Pacific Coast states is placed at 20,501,000 bushels, about the same as last season and 7 percent above the 1944-53 average. Other pears in these three states are estimated at 7,147,000 bushels, 21 percent above last year and 4 percent above average.

The Bartlett crop in California is estimated at 12,501,000 bushels, below last year but above average. Harvest was completed about mid-September.

Plums and Prunes

The production of plums in California and Michigan is estimated at 91,400 tons, 16 percent above last year and 6 percent above average. Production in California is estimated at 87,000 tons, 21 percent more than the short 1954 crop and 8 percent above average. In Michigan the 4,400 tons estimated for this season is one-third less than last year and 23 percent below average.

The California prune crop is not harvesting out to earlier expectations. It is now expected to total 137,000 tons (dry basis), 23 percent less than last year and 21 percent below average.

Production of prunes for all purposes in Idaho, Washington and Oregon is expected to total 104,900 tons (fresh basis), 55 percent more than the short 1954 crop but slightly below average.

Cranberries

Cranberry production is estimated at 1,068,900 barrels, 5 percent above the 1954 crop and 27 percent above average. The crop is larger than average in every state and larger than last year in every state except Massachusetts.

State	1954	Sept. 1 1955	Oct. 1 1955
	(barrels)	(barrels)	(barrels)
Mass.....	590,000	610,000	560,000
N. J.....	87,000	96,000	96,000
Wis.....	250,000	315,000	315,000
Wash.....	61,500	58,200	65,400
Ore.....	30,000	32,500	32,400
U. S. Total...	1,018,500	1,111,700	1,068,900

Citrus Fruit Production

The forecast of early and midseason oranges for harvest in the 1955-56 season is 67.6 million boxes, 2 percent less than last year but 26 percent more than the 1944-53 average, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

The Florida production of these varieties, including 2.8 million Temples, is forecast at 52.0 million boxes, the same as last season's crop, which included 2.5 million Temples. October 1 indications in Florida point to 39 million boxes of Valencia oranges, up 7 percent from last season.

Texas and Arizona have prospects for 1.1 million boxes, up 11 percent over last year.

Florida tangerine production, forecast at 4.6 million boxes, is 10 percent less than last year but slightly above average.

Grapefruit (excluding the California summer crop) is forecast at 44.1 million boxes, 8 percent above last season but 7 percent below average. Florida has a crop of 38 million boxes in prospect, 9 percent above last year and 21 percent above average. Texas, Arizona and California Desert Valley grapefruit are forecast at 6.1 million boxes, 4 percent more than last year.

Texas citrus trees are reported in excellent condition and fruit of all varieties is much larger than usual. Florida's harvest of grapefruit through September has been lighter than usual due to stricter maturity requirements. A few oranges were harvested there prior to October 1, and volume movement was expected to be under way by mid-October.

Production of Field Crops

Prospects for production of potatoes and sweet potatoes declined during September, while conditions favored development of the 1955 crops of rice and dry edible beans.

USDA reports that harvesting of sweet potatoes made only fair progress in Louisiana during September. Some growers were reportedly waiting for more favorable market conditions.

Crop	Unit	1954	Sept. 1 1955	Oct. 1 1955
			(*thousands*)	
Potatoes	bu.	356,031	392,530	387,334
Sweetpotatoes	bu.	29,880	36,137	35,503
Durum wheat	bu.	5,557	14,334	14,379
Rice	bag	58,853	48,745	50,233
Dry edible beans	bag	18,899	18,922	18,954
Dry field peas	bag	3,484	2,533	2,533

Food and Drug Observance

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sociates of Dr. Wiley. All living past Food and Drug Commissioners will be invited to participate in the anniversary observances at the Convention, and a majority of Convention press releases and other material issued by the Information Division at the Convention press room will be devoted to this subject.

"The canning industry feels it has most appropriate reasons to join in the anniversary," Mr. Budd stated, pointing out that Wiley was the first guest speaker to appear before the newly formed N.C.A. in Buffalo in 1907 and that the first resolution appearing on the historic minute books of N.C.A. urged the passage of appropriation bills to implement the law.

"The earliest activities of the N.C.A. were devoted to matters connected with what was then called 'The Pure Food Law.' There was immediate cooperation with federal officials in effectuating the Act. In its original form it was not perfect, but the Association and a majority of canners felt it was not to be flouted or resisted. Association policy was to make it beneficial to the public and the industry alike. As a consequence, the good faith of this Association was established early and food officials began looking to N.C.A. for information and recommendations with respect to formulation of regulations under the law and for revision and improvement of the law itself."

Every Food and Drug Commissioner, from Wiley to the present time, has made public acknowledgment of N.C.A.'s continuous cooperative work on food standards, Mr. Budd stated. He pointed out that the first standard of quality for any food under the original law was for canned peas in 1918 and was developed by N.C.A.; that the McNary-Mapes amendment in 1930 was originated by N.C.A., and that it inspired the food standards section of the 1938 Act; N.C.A. was instrumental in having this basic principle of an enforcible standard written into the law; the first standards promulgated under the revised law were for canned foods and this Association has taken a leading part in developing the details of procedure in the formulation of the standards; and finally that the Hale amendment of 1954 received its principal support from the N.C.A.

Florida Canners Meeting

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locations and conditions of exposure at Yucca Flats; and explaining the management phases of the tests, which were conducted jointly with the Can Manufacturers Institute, Glass Container Manufacturers Institute, and American Meat Institute. A total of 51 color slides serve to illustrate the various ways in which the 25,000 tin and glass packed samples were exposed to the blast. These included pre-blast and post-blast views of the foods in the several types of test structures.

Press releases on the favorable showing of canned foods were prepared and mailed by the Information Division to the national newspaper wire services, 142 Florida newspapers and 118 radio and television stations, as well as to the canning industry trade journals.

On the day following his Florida Canners Association appearance, Mr. Greenleaf spoke before the Florida section of the Institute of Food Technologists, delivering a paper prepared by Dr. H. L. Stier, Director of the N.C.A. Division of Statistics, entitled "Statistical Quality Control in the Canning and Preserving Industry." About three-fourths of all canners use statistical quality control, the paper reported, the most frequent use being in processing, packaging and purchasing operations, in that order.

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